

Message Text

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TO USDEL ACAPULCO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: RADIO/TV HIGHLIGHTS: APRIL 3 & 4

1. MARVIN KALB - CBS RADIO - 1ST LINE REPORT (4/4): QUOTE:
IN THE MIDDLE EAST THERE IS MORE FIGHTING ON THE GOLAN
HEIGHTS, BUT IT MAY BE A PRELUDE FOR MORE NEGOTIATING. THIS
IS THE 24TH DAY OF CONSECUTIVE TROUBLE ON THE GOLAN FRONT
BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL AND THE ODDS ARE SHIFTING ON
WHETHER THIS TROUBLE MEANS A NEW WAR IS IMMINENT. UP UNTIL
RECENT DAYS THE ODDS WERE STRONGLY AGAINST A MAJOR RESUMP-
TION OF THE FIGHTING, NOW THEY ARE MOVING UP TOWARDS FIFTY-
FIFTY ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS HERE. IT OBVIOUSLY DEPENDS
ON ONE'S JUDGEMENT.

AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ARE STILL RELATIVELY
OPTIMISTIC THEY CAN HEAD OFF WAR BY A COMBINATION OF
COMMON SENSE AND ACTIVE PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY. IN ISRAEL
OFFICIALS ARE LESS CERTAIN OF THIS PROSPECT AND IN SYRIA,
SO FAR AS ONE CAN TELL, OFFICIALS ALSO ARE LESS CERTAIN.

FOR THE MOST PART, THE LOW GRADE WARFARE ALONG THE GOLAN
HEIGHTS' FRONT, A MINI WAR OF ATTRITION, HAS BEEN STATIC

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ARTILLERY PIECES IN SET POSITIONS FIRING ACROSS THE CEASE

FIRE LINES, TANKS FIRING ACROSS THE LINES, TOO, OCCASIONAL PROBES MOSTLY BY THE SYRIANS. THEY PICKED UP TWO UN OBSERVERS ON THE ISRAELI SIDE OF THE CEASE FIRE LINES EARLIER THIS WEEK, BUT THE VIOLATIONS LOOK AS THOUGH THEY WERE TAKING ON A LIFE OF THEIR OWN. TWO, THREE WEEKS AGO IT WAS VERY LIMITED WARFARE -- FIFTY SHELLS AT MOST FIRED IN BOTH DIRECTIONS; NOW IT IS CONSIDERABLY MORE AND YESTERDAY ISRAELI PLANES TOOK TO THE SKIES FOR THE FIRST TIME, BUZZING POSITIONS ALONG THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.

ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER DAYAN VISITING HERE IN WASHINGTON, HAS BEEN TELLING CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES BEHIND CLOSED DOORS THAT ISRAEL IS ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN THE CEASE FIRE AND TO ENGAGE SYRIA IN A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, BUT HE IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IF SYRIA CONTINUES TO ESCALATE THE SHOOTING, CONTINUES PROBING AND TAKING ISRAELI LIVES THAT ISRAEL MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE VERY STRONG ACTION. IT IS CLEAR THAT ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF BEING CAUGHT BY SURPRISE TWICE IN A SIX MONTH PERIOD. LAST OCTOBER ISRAEL WAS SURPRISED BY A COORDINATED SYRIAN/ EGYPTIAN ATTACK ON A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY, YOM KIPPUR. THIS SATURDAY ANOTHER JEWISH HOLIDAY BEGINS, PASSOVER, AND THE ISRAELIS HAVE MOBILIZED THEIR FORCES JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE. NO GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL COULD SURVIVE A SECOND MILITARY SURPRISE. AS IT IS THE MEIR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INDIRECTLY CRITICIZED FOR THE LACK OF PREPAREDNESS LAST OCTOBER AND CHIEF OF STAFF ELAZAR WAS SADDLED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY AND HE HAS RESIGNED. DAYAN SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN OFF THE HOOK. THE CRITICISM CAME FROM A SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMISSION AND IT LOOKS AS THOUGH IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING -- ISRAEL APPROACHING HER OWN KIND OF WATERGATE MESS.

US OFFICIALS THINK THE LID CAN BE KEPT ON THE GOLAN FIGHTING SO LONG AS BOTH SIDES THERE ARE GIVEN A DIPLOMATIC ALTERNATIVE TO WAR. THEY MAINTAIN THAT THEY ARE STILL EXPECTING A FAIRLY HIGH LEVEL SYRIAN MILITARY DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK FOR TALKS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER. THE SECRETARY MET LAST WEEK WITH DAYAN, PICKED UP AN ISRAELI PROPOSAL AND AN UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELI MAP WHICH HE WILL PRESENT TO THE SYRIANS PRESUMABLY NEXT WEEK. FOR HIS PART KISSINGER IS NOT YET AT THE STAGE WHERE HE IS PRESENTING AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES; BUT EVERYONE HERE IS

WORKING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT HE WILL BE GOING BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST AT THE END OF THIS MONTH TO PUSH BOTH SIDES TOWARD A DEAL. THAT ALL DEPENDS OF COURSE ON

WHETHER THE GOLAN FIGHTING CAN BE CONTAINED OR WHETHER IT WILL EXPLODE INTO A NEW AND MAJOR WAR. END QUOTE.

2. ERIC SEVAREID-CBS TV/RADIO: THE AMBASSADOR AND THE SENATOR: (4/3): QUOTE: A HARD ROCK AMBASSADOR HAS TAKEN ON A PRESTIGIOUS SENATOR AND A BITTER QUARREL HAS GONE PUBLIC, THANKS TO A LEAK . . . SENATOR KENNEDY WANTED THE FACTS AND FIGURES ON AMERICAN AID AND POLICY IN INDO-CHINA. OUR HARD-EYED, COLD WARRIOR AMBASSADOR IN SAIGON, GRAHAM MARTIN, PRIVATELY TOLD THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO BRUSH OFF THE SENATOR WITH A FORM LETTER -- "AN HONEST AND DETAILED ANSWER TO HIS QUESTIONS WOULD BE THE HEIGHT OF FOLLY," SAID THE AMBASSADOR WHO ALSO INSINUATED THAT KENNEDY'S STAFF WAS INADVERTENTLY OR OTHERWISE DOING HANOI'S WORK FOR IT.

"OUTRAGE AND INSULT TO THE CONGRESS," REPLIED THE SENATOR. IT ALL HAS TO DO WITH HOW MUCH WE ARE STILL SPENDING IN INDO-CHINA AND BY WHAT AUTHORITY. AT ANY RATE SECRETARY KISSINGER OVERRULED MARTIN'S ADVICE AND RESPONDED FULLY TO THE SENATOR ...

AMERICAN POLICIES AS DETAILED IN THE KISSINGER LETTER ARE IMPORTANT AND THE SENATOR IS NOT ALONE IN DRAWING DISTURBING INFERENCES FROM THE LETTER. THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN VIET-NAM HAS BEEN A SERIOUS QUESTION FROM THE VERY BEGINNINGS TEN YEARS AGO ... ALL THOSE RATIONALIZATIONS WORE OUT WITH TIME AND EVENTS. THE NEW CLAIM IS THAT WE POUR IN HELP TO INDO-CHINA, AND BY THE SENATOR'S CALCULATION IT IS ABOUT 3 BILLION DOLLARS THIS YEAR ON THE BASIS OF THE PARIS CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENTS AND THE GENERAL PHRASE OF OUR NATIONAL INTEREST.

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THE PARIS AGREEMENTS WERE NEVER SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS AS A TREATY FOR RATIFICATION. THERE ARE NO FORMAL WRITTEN BILATERAL COMMITMENTS TO SVN OR CAMBODIA OR LAOS. THE ARGUMENT IS HOT AND THE MONEY FIGURES EXTREMELY HIGH BECAUSE COMMUNIST VIET-NAM IS STILL PENETRATING SVN IN AN OMINOUS WAY. WHAT IT ALL AMOUNTS TO IS THAT HANOI CALLS THE TUNE, DETERMINES HOW MUCH AMERICANS SHALL PAY OUT FOR INDO-CHINA AND FOR HOW MANY YEARS AHEAD. CONGRESS IS EXPECTED TO RUBBER STAMP EXECUTIVE RESPONSES AND IN THE AMBASSADOR'S VIEW, AT LEAST, SHOULD CONTENT ITSELF WITH ONLY THOSE FACTS THAT THE EXECUTIVE CHOOSES TO TELL IT. END QUOTE.

3. TOM PETIT-NBC TV: A JOURNALISTIC CHASE: (4/3): QUOTE: COVERING A HONEYMOON IN ACAPULCO IS JOURNALISM AT ITS

MOST DIFFICULT. THERE IS GREAT DANGER, BOTH TO GOOD TASTE AND THE EXPENSE ACCOUNT. THE CHALLENGE IS ENORMOUS -- HOW TO GET PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BRIDE AND GROOM WHO ARE GUARDING THEIR PRIVACY AND UNDERSTANDBLY SO. HOWEVER, WITH INGENUITY AND A TELEPHOTO LENS YOU CAN GET A GOOD LOOK AT THE VILLA OVERLOOKING ACAPULCO AND THE PACIFIC OCEAN, AND AT THE SWIMMING POOL YOU CAN ALMOST SEE THE HONEYMOONERS. BUT JOURNALISM DEMANDS GREATER EFFORTS THAN THAT. ON MONDAY WE ALMOST SAW THE HONEYMOONERS AGAIN AS THEIR LIMOUSINE DROVE THEM AWAY TO LUNCH. WE GAVE CHASE AND LOST, IT PROBABLY SERVED US RIGHT. FINALLY LATE YESTERDAY, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, WE SAW THEM AT THE HOME OF MEXICO'S FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA. THE NEWLYWEDS MADE INTELLIGENT TO ASK. LOCAL REPORTERS SAY THIS.

Q: HOW MANY BABIES DO YOU WANT?

A: LET US JUST COUNT THEM AS THEY COME ALONG.

Q: WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE GIRLS YOU DATED AS A SWINGER?

A: I COULDN'T POSSIBLY ADMIT THIS -- THE BACHELORS ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO ME THIS WEEK.

THE MAIN PROBLEM IN REPORTING A HONEYMOON FROM ACAPULCO IS THAT YOU GET VERY LITTLE SYMPATHY FROM YOUR EDITORS WHEN YOU TELL THEM HOW HARD YOU ARE WORKING AND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO HEAR FROM THE BOOKKEEPERS
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WHEN YOU TURN IN YOUR EXPENSE ACCOUNT FOR THESE RENTED CARS, THE RENTED BOATS, BUT THE CHEAPEST POSSIBLE HOTEL ROOM. END QUOTE. RUSH

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